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CARPET MAKING.

WHEN Jacquard discovered a means of mechanically introducing the pattern into the web of the carpet, he inaugurated an era of, perhaps not better, but certainly lower-priced floor coverings than were then known. By his invention it became possible to adapt the artist's designs, not alone to carpets, but to silk and lace and linen, and at such an exceedingly low figure, comparatively, that it brought these stuffs within the reach of the multitude.

The direct benefit of the improvement was felt in carpets, for the expense of hand work was great, and its liability to accident or error greater still.

Kidderminster is the first we can consider in the examples of the cheaply-made carpets. It is a yard in width, has a woollen weft and a worsted warp; it is a two-ply carpet and not very durable. The yarns used are seldom of more than three colors, and are carefully arranged so as to avoid an appearance of stripiness.

Brussels carpet is superior in many ways to the Kidderminster, not alone in its greater thickness and the various kinds of yarn that are possible to introduce into its composition, but also the form of its backing and the additional strength that may be given it.

Brussels, when very heavy, consists of six thicknesses of worsted; ordinarily there are from three to five. Technically, these thicknesses are known as "frames;" thus three, four or six frame carpet, as the case may be, indicates that the worsted is repeated in the carpet three, four or six times over itself. To make this clearer it might be well to explain the process of manufacture, or some part of it. The yarn making up the body of the carpet is woven together by the intermingling of different frames or racks, of bobbins or spools having the yarn wound upon them. The frames, upon which are the bobbins holding the worsted, are placed horizontally behind the loom and the worsted is paid out over strong wires placed horizontally above each other, between the frame and the loom. Each wire has a corresponding reel upon the loom, which takes the thread passed to it and travels with it along the extent of its path upon the loom. Each reel, therefore, supplying one thread of worsted to the carpet, makes it necessary to have two hundred and sixty reels to every frame, as there are just that number of threads in one width of Brussels carpet, measuring, as is usual, twenty-seven inches.

By noticing the number of differently-colored threads there are in a Brussels carpet, one may, in most instances, know how many frames it is, for each color should indicate a particular frame. This, however, has been taken advantage of by some manufacturers, and it is found that five colors, instead of indicating five frames, may only be an ingenious arrangement by which the maker has introduced an additional color into four frames.

Numberless wires, extended across the loom, are caught by the threads in weaving and woven into the body of the material as though they were themselves thread. The yarn catches over them, forming a loop, and, after the wires are withdrawn, these loops constitute the "pile" of the carpet. In Brussels this pile is left in its looped shape.

What we know as Wilton carpets are similar in manner of manufacture to the Brussels, with the difference that the wires over which the yarn is looped are shaped like a knife-blade, made quite sharp. When these wires are withdrawn the edge of the blade cuts the loop in two, and leaves it with individual ends very much as the nap of velvet. After this is done the carpet is dampened and drawn over immense steam drums, the cut loops being outward, and the effect is to raise the pile to an even surface, resembling velvet. The pile necessarily pointing or inclining in one direction, it is obvious that to counteract the appear-

ance of the pattern running off towards the wall, either in one direction or the other, the strips are woven in what are called right- and left-hand pieces, and when joined are so juxtaposed as to have the pile pointing towards contrary sides.

The wire fashioned as a knife blade, used in the Wilton carpet, being considerably larger than that employed in the Brussels, consumes more yarn; and in the same quantity of carpet it is estimated that there is, from this cause, one-quarter more material in the Wilton than the Brussels, hence the greater expense of the former to both producer and consumer.

The Brussels and Wilton being comparatively expensive in the production, and therefore in their selling prices, it became necessary to manufacture some cheaper grade of good quality, and to satisfy this demand a Mr. Whytock, a Scotchman, invented

would make these 648 stitches, is wound with one layer of threads, and upon the outer edge or side of the drum are attached the strips of paper with each space upon it marked for its proper color. Upon the floor, immediately beneath this drum, which, of course, revolves upon its axis, is a track of two rails, laid transversely across the path taken by the drum in its revolutions. At one side, upon a sort of turn-table, as it might be termed, are a number of small cars or troughs, very much like a miniature grind-stone stand, and each having a delicate felt wheel, poised as a grind-stone is, and at such a height as to touch the drum when passed beneath it. The trough is filled with dye, and the wheel, being half in the liquid at all times, of course stains everything with which it comes in contact. This car is pushed beneath the drum, and the felt wheel, revolving as the car travels across, leaves behind it a dyed stripe on the thread with which the drum is covered. This color being used, the drum is turned just the extent of one stitch, which is readily done by a cog and index, and a new thread for the succeeding color is presented. A second car is thereupon pushed upon the track and traverses the space allotted to it, leaving behind it the tint from its trough. This is repeated as frequently as there are colors in the pattern, which, it may be understood, are limited only by the expense of laying them on.

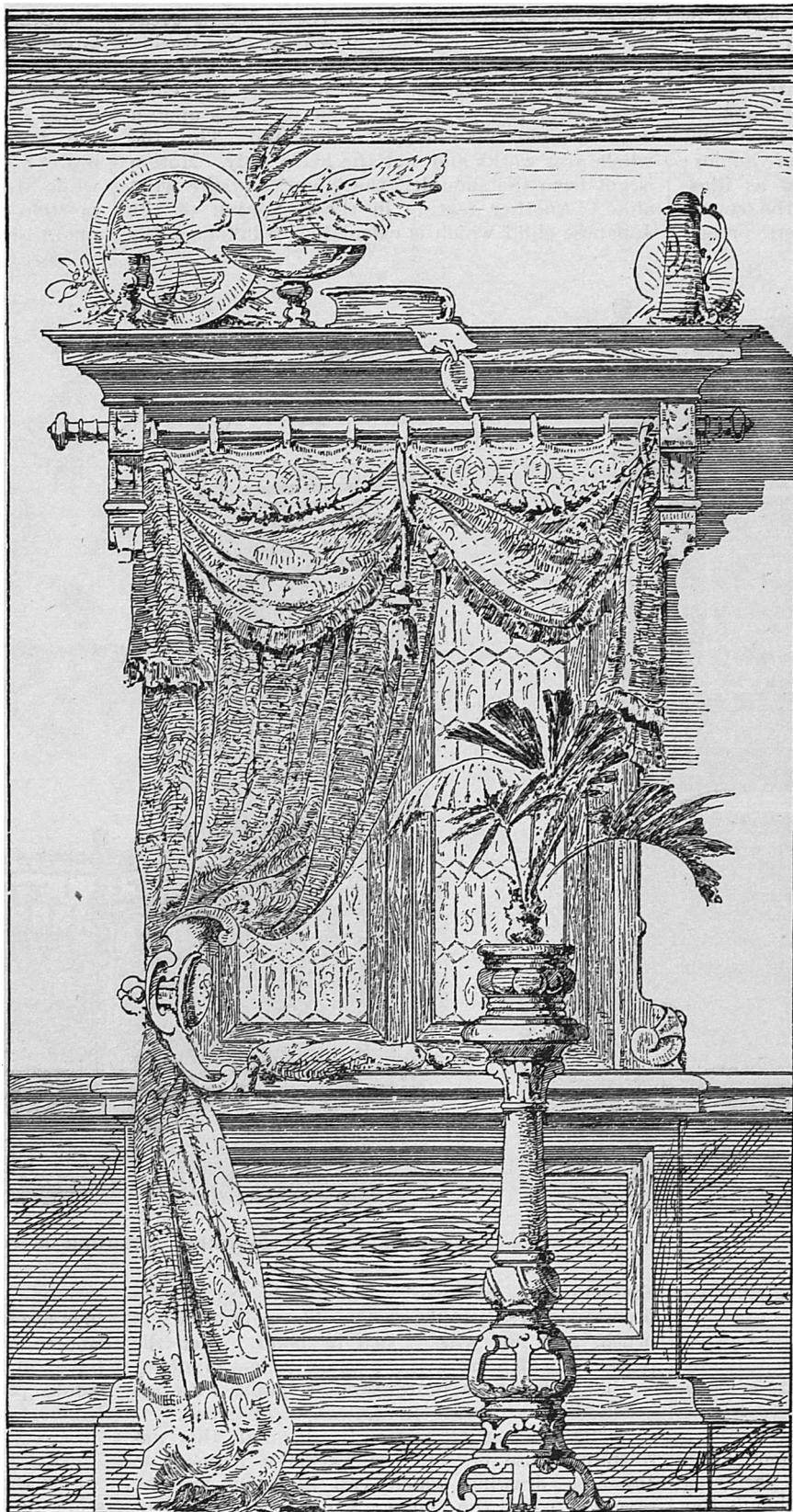
Following this, which produces one thread of the pattern, another one of the stripes of paper is attached to the drum, another lot of yarn wound about it, and the same process repeated in order to procure the second thread of the patterns, and so it is continued as often as is necessary. If the figure be repeated but once in the entire width of the breadth, then it is necessary to make as many changes or replenishings of the yarn on the drum as there are threads in the breadth, which is 218; but if the figure repeats itself two or three or more times, then the labor will be correspondingly diminished, for each dyeing of the drum will furnish many threads that may be used in the same breadth. To explain the quantity of carpet into which each drumfull of yarn enters, so as to take away in a measure the appearance of expense, it should be considered that every hank of yarn forms a thread of one warp; each warp makes from 240 to 320 yards of carpet, and there is often twelve hanks of yarn wound upon one drum at one time; they are sufficiently large to contain that quantity.

The threads are now woven and the figured carpet comes directly from the loom. The loops may be left as such, or cut as we have seen done in the case of the Wiltons.

If it was attempted to make a small quantity of tapestry carpet, the expense would be altogether out of proportion with the result attained, artistically. The colors, too, being dyed in the manner described, are more or less liable to "run" and blurring, and the difficulty in gauging the drum to an exact point is often remarked in the finished work.

WE saw a very pretty dressing bureau scarf recently made of ladies' cloth (sapphire blue), long enough to cover the top of the bureau and hang about eighteen inches down the side. A strip of velvet, of a darker shade of blue, three inches in width, and extending from edge to edge of the width of the scarf, was fastened near each of the ends in a vertical position, and red worsted of varying lengths, and about one-half inch apart, tacked down with old gold silk floss, worked in the herring-bone stitch, running down from the velvet, the longest piece coming within one inch of the edge. Above the velvet were five open Japanese fans, made of various colors of worsted, and filled in with silk floss. On the velvet were embroidered six daisies.

It is often desirable to insert a screw in plaster. Make a large hole in the plaster, drive in a wooden plug, and in that insert the screw.



WINDOW ORNAMENTATION, FROM A GERMAN EXCHANGE.

a means of manufacture that has been a most desirable acquisition to carpet fabrication. Those made by his process are called "Tapestry."

The pattern is made upon strips of paper and the figures considerably exaggerated in length. This increase in the size of the pattern is made necessary by the quantity of thread required in making the loop, the top of which alone is seen and enters into the formation of the figures. These strips of paper represent the stitches to be made, and being cut into quite narrow pieces, after the pattern has been drawn, each shows, between every two lines upon it, the color of the stitch that is to occupy that particular space, and every 648 of these stitches represents a new figure or a repetition of the previous one.

An immense drum, of tin, and measuring in circumference the exact length of a thread that